

PR97:166

**WILSON OPENS FIRST MEETING OF NEW MANAGED HEALTH CARE  
IMPROVEMENT TASK FORCE**

Calls On Public-Private Partnership to Bring Comprehensive Global Perspective  
to Managed Care Issue

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Tuesday, April 22, 1997

CONTACT: Sean Walsh  
Lisa Kalustian  
916/445-4571  
Philip Romero  
916/324-1711

SACRAMENTO - Governor Pete Wilson today kicked off operations of the new California Managed Care Improvement Task Force at its first meeting at the California Chamber of Commerce in Sacramento.

"It's not enough that California has been a leader in managed care - improving our health system by enhancing market incentives," Wilson said. "We need to move forward, further streamlining and improving government's role in oversight and regulation, while preserving managed care's best features: coordinated teams of highly-skilled professionals delivering cost-efficient, patient-sensitive care based on the best clinical information science has to offer."

"That's why we've assembled this task force, this public-private partnership - because it's clear that with the rapid shift of California's population into managed care, it'll take the best thinking of both the public and private sectors to assure that this shift toward managed care will ultimately result in a better system of health care for all Californians," Wilson said.

The Task Force is chaired by Professor Alain Enthoven of Stanford University. Enthoven is world-reknowned for his work on health policy and is widely regarded as the "father of managed competition".

"Here's my charge to this task force, and it's a big one: to bring a comprehensive, global perspective to the vexing issues facing us as we work as a community to bring excellent health care to our citizens - without stifling the research and development on which the world relies to advance medical care," Wilson said.

"I am asking you to comprehensively review the appropriate role for government in guaranteeing the highest standards in quality of care, without sacrificing its affordability, so that

- MORE -  
PR97:166:2

we can make it widely accessible," Wilson said. "It simply means the public sector must set up a framework of laws, then step back and let the markets do what they do best in every other industry: drive continuous quality improvement and control costs. Our goal is what's best, what's fair for all Californians: a quality managed care in which all consumers and patients have the utmost confidence."

"By next January, when you've submitted your report, I trust you'll have answered two crucial questions: (1) what is the appropriate role of government in monitoring and regulating managed care, particularly with regard to assuring quality; (2) how should government be organized in order to maximize that goal?" Wilson said.

The California Managed Care Improvement Task Force was created by AB 2343 by Assemblyman Bernie Richter (R-Chico), which passed unanimously through both houses of the Legislature and was signed by the Governor last year. The legislation calls for thirty members drawn equally from five categories: health plans; health providers; plan enrollees; employers; and consumer groups. AB 2343 calls for the Task Force to report on the state of the managed care industry and its effects on several key segments of the health care system by January 1, 1998. Future meetings of the Task Force, including a series of public hearings between May and July, will be held throughout the state.

- 30 -